



LePrevost
Plumbing, Heating & Cooling

SAVE WATER, MONEY, ENERGY NOW! **TOP 5 ACTIONS**

With so many ways to save water, here are the highlights for 5 key actions to help you capture the water savings around your home. ***Remember, every drop counts!***

1. Stop Those Leaks!

Check your indoor water using appliances and devices for leaks. Many silent, undetected leaks allow water and your money to go down the drain. Studies have shown homes can waste more than 10% due to leaking, which costs both you and the environment.

Another large water waster can be leaks in your irrigation system. Fix irrigation system leaks quickly and check for water in the gutters or mud puddles. Inspect your sprinklers and drip sprayers regularly for leaks during the daytime since the optimal time to water is in the nighttime hours when you cannot observe leaks. If you have an older irrigation system, over 50% and even more than 75% of the water can be lost to leaks.

2. Replace your old Toilet, the largest water user inside your home!

If your home was built before 1994 and the toilet has never been replaced, then it is very likely that you do not have a water efficient 1.6 gallon per flush toilet. You can check the date stamp inside the toilet by lifting the lid and looking at the back of the toilet at the manufacturer's imprint of the make, model and date of manufacture.

3. Replace your Washer, the second largest water user in your home!

Energy Star™ rated washers that also have a Water Factor at or lower than 9.5, use 35-50% less water and 50% less energy per load. This saves you money on both your water and energy bills. There is a current listing of qualifying water efficient clothes washer models maintained by the Consortium for Energy Efficiency.

4. Plant the Right Plants with Proper Landscape Design & Irrigation!

Whether you are putting in a new landscape or slowly changing the current landscaping at your home, select plants that are appropriate for your local climate conditions. Having a yard with 100% lawn turf area in a dry climate uses a significantly large amount of water. Also consider the trend towards Xeriscape™ and a more natural landscape or wildscape.

5. Water Only What Your Plants Need!

Most water is wasted in your garden by watering when your plants do not need the water or by not maintaining the irrigation system. Be attentive if you are manually watering by setting your oven timer or some other reminder to move the water promptly. Make sure your irrigation controller has a rain shutoff device and that it's appropriately scheduled. Most water is wasted in months prior to or just after the rainy season when intermittent rains occur. You can also consider installing a weather adjusting ET irrigation controller that automatically saves water by not watering when the plants don't need the water, check with your local water provider to inquire if ET controllers work in your area.

Call LePrevost Plumbing, Heating & Cooling for all of your water saving needs!

Water Saving

Facts & Tips!



Water Use in the Bathroom

Facts

- Toilets can account for almost 30% of all indoor water use, more than any other fixture or appliance.
- Older toilets (installed prior to 1994) use 3.5 to 7 gallons (13-27 liters) of water per flush and as much as 20 gallons (76 liters) per person per day.
- Replacing an old toilet with a new model can save the typical household 7,900 to 21,700 gallons (29,902 - 82,135 liters) of water per year, cutting both your water and wastewater bills.
- An average of 20% of toilets leak.

Tips

- Install an ultra low-flow toilet that requires only 1.6 gallons (6 liters) per flush.
- To ensure optimal performance, when installing a low-flow toilet in areas with a low drainage gradient (such as basements), consider a pressurized model.
- Check toilets periodically for leaks and repair them promptly.
- Reduce the amount of water used by an older toilet by placing a one gallon plastic jug of water, or two one quart bottles, in the tank to displace toilet flows. Or you can install a "dam" that partitions off a section of the tank so it can't fill with water. These methods can save over 1,000 gallons (3,785 liters) of water per person per year.
- Don't use the toilet as a trash can.

Showers and Faucets

Facts

- The third highest use of indoor water is bathing, and because most of us like to use warm water when we bathe, it's also the second highest use of energy in the home.

Tips

- Take a quick shower rather than a bath and save an average of 20 gallons (76 liters) of water.
- Install a water-efficient showerhead with a flow rate of less than 2.5 gallons (9.5 liters) per minute. (Replace an existing shower head if a one gallon bucket placed under the flow takes less than 20 seconds to fill.)
- Install aerators on your kitchen and bathroom faucets to reduce indoor water use by as much as 4%.
- Turn off the water when brushing your teeth or shaving and save more than 5 gallons (19 liters) per day.
- Clean vegetables in a sink or pan partially filled with water rather than running water from the tap.
- Re-use the water that vegetables are washed in for watering houseplants or for cleaning.
- If you wash dishes by hand, rinse them in a sink partially filled with clean water instead of under running water.
- Instead of waiting for tap water to get cold enough for drinking, keep a bottle of water in the refrigerator.
- Whenever possible, compost food scraps or dispose of them in the garbage rather than using the garbage disposal which requires a high level of water for operation.

Call LePrevost Plumbing, Heating & Cooling for all of your water saving needs!

Conservation Info & Tips



Tips for Saving Water!

AWWA recommends the following steps to help conserve water:

- Don't over water your lawn. Only water every three to five days in the summer and 10 to 14 days in the winter.
- To prevent water loss from evaporation, don't water your lawn during the hottest part of the day or when it is windy.
- Only run the dishwasher and clothes washer when they are fully loaded.
- Defrost frozen food in the refrigerator or in the microwave instead of running water over it.
- When washing dishes by hand, use two basins - one for washing and one for rinsing rather than let the water run.
- Use a broom, rather than a hose, to clean sidewalks and driveways.
- If you have a swimming pool, get a cover. You'll cut the loss of water by evaporation by 90 percent.
- Repair dripping faucets and leaky toilets. Dripping faucets can waste about 2,000 gallons of water each year. Leaky toilets can waste as much as 200 gallons each day.

Water Use Statistics

Consumption and Conservation

- Approximately 346,800 million gallons per day (mgd) of freshwater and 61,200 mgd of saltwater were withdrawn during 2000 for use by the nation's homes, farms, and industries.
- In 2000, the highest consuming states withdrew: California 51,200 mgd; Texas 29,600; and Florida 20,100. In comparison, the lowest consuming states withdrew Alaska 305 mgd; Rhode Island 429; and Vermont 447. (USGS)
- Americans drink more than 1 billion glasses of tap water per day.
- On average, 50 to 70 percent of home water is used outdoors for watering lawns and gardens.
- Daily indoor per capita water use in the typical single family home is 69.3 gallons. Here is how it breaks down:

Use	Gallons per Capita	Percentage of Total Daily Use
Showers	11.6	16.8%
Clothes Washers	15.0	21.7%
Dishwashers	1.0	1.4%
Toilets	18.5	26.7%
Baths	1.2	1.7%
Leaks	9.5	13.7%
Faucets	10.9	15.7%
Other Domestic Uses	1.6	2.2%

Call LePrevost Plumbing, Heating & Cooling for all of your water saving needs!

Water Saving

Facts & Tips!



Major Appliances

Facts

- Clothes washers can use as much as 30-35 gallons (114-133 liters) of water per cycle and dishwashers as much as 25 gallons (95 liters) per cycle.
- A full dishwasher is more water efficient than washing the same load by hand.
- Energy efficient appliances are usually water efficient too.

Tips

Dishwashers

- Only run your dishwasher when it is full to make the best use of water, energy and detergent.
- Cut down on the amount of rinsing you do before loading the dishwasher. Most modern dishwashers do an excellent job of cleaning dishes, pots and pans all by themselves.
- When purchasing a new appliance, look for one offering several different cycles. This will allow you to select more energy and water efficient cycles when heavy duty cleaning is not required.

Clothes Washers

- Wait until you have a full load of laundry before running the machine to save both water and energy. If you can't wait for a full load, use the right water level to match the size of the load.
- When in the market for a new machine, consider a high efficiency model that will use an average of 30% less water and 40-50% less energy.

Other

- Insulate your hot water pipes and your electric water heater. Insulation will reduce the amount of time it takes for hot water to reach the tap, saving water and energy.
- If in the market for a new water softener, consider one with a "hardness sensor" that will automatically trigger regeneration as needed. This type of softener will make the most efficient use of both water and salt.

Call LePrevost Plumbing, Heating & Cooling for all of your water saving needs!

Water Saving

Facts & Tips!



Leak Detection & Repair

Facts

Studies show that dripping faucets and leaking toilets account for as much as 14% of all indoor water use, equivalent to 10 gallons (38 liters) per person of water lost per day.

Tips

Read Your Water Meter

- Use your water meter to check for leaks in your home. Start by turning off all faucets and water-using appliances and make sure no one uses water during the testing period.
- Take a reading on your water meter, wait for about 30 minutes, then take a second reading. If the dial has moved, you have a leak.

Check for Leaky Toilets

- The most common source of leaks is the toilet. Check toilets for leaks by placing a few drops of food coloring in the tank. If after 15 minutes the dye shows up in the bowl, the toilet has a leak.
- Leaky toilets can usually be repaired inexpensively by replacing the flapper.

Check for Leaky Faucets

- The next place to check for leaks is your sink and bathtub faucets. Dripping faucets can usually be repaired by replacing the rubber O-ring or washer inside the valve.

Tips for Outdoor Water Use

- Wash your car with a bucket of soapy water and use a nozzle to stop the flow of water from the hose between rinsings.
- Clean driveways and sidewalks with a broom instead of the hose.
- Check for leaks in outdoor faucets, pipes and hoses.
- Prevent the creation of leaks by shutting off and draining water lines to outside spigots in the winter.
- Cover your spa or pool to reduce evaporation. An average size pool left uncovered can lose as much as 1,000 gallons (3,785 liters) of water per month.
- Also, check your spa/pool for leaks and have them repaired promptly.

Call LePrevost Plumbing, Heating & Cooling for all of your water saving needs!

Water Saving

Facts & Tips!



Irrigation

- As much as 30% of water can be lost to evaporation by watering the lawn during midday.
- Homes with in-ground sprinkler systems use 35% more water outdoors than those who do not have an in-ground system. One reason may be that system controllers are not adjusted according to seasonal irrigation needs.

Tips

General Watering

- Water before 8 A.M. or after 6 P.M. and avoid watering on windy days.
- Water in several short sessions rather than one long one. For example, three ten minute sessions spaced 30 minutes to an hour apart will allow your lawn to better absorb moisture than one straight 30 minute session.
- Only water when your lawn is thirsty. Overwatering promotes shallow root growth making your lawn less hardy. (To determine if your lawn needs to be watered, simply walk across the grass. If you leave footprints, it's time to water.)
- Install moisture sensors in each irrigation zone (sunny, shady, etc.) to better determine irrigation needs.

Sprinklers/Sprinkler Systems

- Check sprinkler system valves periodically for leaks and keep the heads in good repair.
- Adjust the timer on automatic sprinklers according to seasonal water demands and weather conditions.
- Install a rain shut-off device on automatic sprinklers to eliminate unneeded applications.
- Make sure your sprinkler is placed so it only waters the lawn, not the pavement.
- Avoid sprinklers that spray a fine mist, which increases evaporation.

Drip Irrigation

- Install a drip irrigation system for watering gardens, trees and shrubs. Drip irrigation provides a slow, steady trickle of water to plants at their roots through a network of hidden pipes and hoses. The systems are regulated by a controller that can be adjusted for different levels of watering according to the needs of the plants. Drip irrigation systems reduce overwatering, inefficient watering, weed growth, and the time and labor involved in hand watering.



LePrevost
Plumbing, Heating & Cooling



243-1777

LePrevost Plumbing, Heating & Cooling
For all of your
Water Saving needs!

- Our experienced technicians are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year including holidays and weekends!
- Our friendly office staff is happy to arrange service for all of your plumbing, heating, cooling and *water saving* concerns!

50 West Center Street
Lee MA 01238
Phone: (413)243-1777
Fax: (413)243-6777
Or email us!
leprevostplumbing@verizon.net

We're looking forward to hearing from you!

Tim LePrevost
Your Local Master Plumber
License # 12049